From my Mother's news clipping collection. I was already gone on active duty from Naval Com Reserve callup March 1941

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## Amateurs Here Join With Nation in Practice for Catastrophes 6/8/41

Milwaukee amateur radio operators demonstrated Saturday how they could call to the outside world for help for Milwaukee if a catastrophe destroyed all other communication systems.

Under sponsorship of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs club, two groups set up field units in Milwaukee county—one on a heavily wooded hill near Highway 100 and W. Capitol dr., the other at S. 43rd st. and W. Edgerton av. They reached their stations at 9 a. m. Saturday. They brought pup tents, cots, food and portable stoves. They were prepared to remain at their posts until 5 p. m. Sunday.

The larger group, about 25 amateurs, was at Highway 100 and W. Capitol dr. They had their own generators, driven by gasoline motors, to provide power because in this demonstration they were not to make use of any city power lines.

### Set Up Five Tents

The men worked hard. They strung antennas through tall trees. They strung cables and lines over the hill and down to the generators in a ravine. They set up five tents, and in each they rigged up sending and receiving apparatus.

Fifteen minutes after the group reached the hill they could have sent an emergency message. Their organizer, Wendell Ciganek, 1723 W. Fond du Lac av., advised his crew to finish rigging up five sending stations before making any contacts. They sent their first message at 3 p. m.

At that time, at points all over the United States, other radio amateurs joined in field operations to determine how quickly each could make contact with other cities. The American Radio Relay league sponsored the nation-wide field day, its ninth annual demonstration. For the Milwaukee amateurs, it was the third in which they have participated.

Promptly at 3 p. m., the Milwaukee amateurs swung into action.

"Let's get 300 contacts and have the best record in the country," Ciganek urged his colleagues. Last year they made about 200 contacts.

"I've got St. Louis!" came a cry from one tent.

"We just talked with Winneconne," another shouted.

"Here is Pewaukee."

### Record Their Contacts

From then on, through the afternoon and night, the operators worked steadily, recording carefully each station they contacted. They were confident that by 3 p. m. Sunday they would have carried to both coasts and down into the deep south.

The operators worked in shifts, five at a time over two hour stretches. Those not on duty slept for a few hours. But there was cooking to do, too. They set up stoves to boil wieners and coffee. They set up their cots. They fought mosquitoes. Before nightfall Saturday they strung up their own lighting system.

There was only one note of disharmony. One of the boys brought his dog. Another amateur brought his parrot. The two mascots took an immediate dislike to each other. The dog rushed at the cage, barking angrily, and snapped at the parrot's tail feathers. The parrot put its head through the bars and tried to peck the dog's nose. When the owners separated the two, the parrot squawked: "Polly wants a cracker."

## Amateurs Make Practical Turn on Dials of Hobby

LOOKING very professional are these members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' club who participated in field tests Saturday. The tests were held in connection with practice for forming an emergency communications system in the event of catastrophe. Carl F. Thoms (left), 5460 N. 41st st., and Wendell Ciganek, 1723 W. Fond du Lac av., are shown at their quarters set up on a field at Highway 100 and W. Capitol dr. —Journal Staff